

From: LaneStacy
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/19/02 12:07am
Subject: Microsoft Agreement

I just want to say that I have owned every copy of MS Windows since Windows 286. I refuse to go farther. Each release includes more bloated garbage that is just enough to put legitimate software vendors out. How does one compete with free? The free software agreement is like Wal-Mart giving its employees a discount. They work for x dollars then give it back to the company for goods that were purchased wholesale. Through this arrangement, Wal-Mart gets a 90% mark up, keeps its money in house and pays a reduced price for labor. The same goes for Microsoft, they get to spread their wares, thus taking away potential sales from other companies, get free advertisement through the youth of the country, and pay with intellectual property that has no tangible value. What a bargain for Microsoft. Hit them where it hurts. Give people a smaller Windows and take the cash from Bill and Company. Better yet, have them pay in precious metals. I have decided to hurt them where it counts by exercising my consumer choice. I have begun selling all of my PC's and just purchased a new Macintosh with no MS software installed.

In addition, I feel that they have encroached in everyday life too much. The Passport program is a fine example. Why would I want to give someone like a large corporation all of my financial data for "safe keeping?" XP and the ".NET" strategy is another joke. When did software become a corporate lease. In the good old days one purchased a software product and it was his free and clear. Has Washington lost its mind? Why don't they start issuing titles and get the bureaucrats involved? We the people can start paying a yearly tax to hold a valid computer software use license as well. Where will it stop if you don't get involved and shut Microsoft's practices down? I urge you to come up with a more neutral and agreeable settlement that has American business competition in the best interest.

Thank you,

Lane Spence